

Walsh Starts For Red China To Visit Captive Brother

William C. Walsh took off yesterday on the first leg of his trip to Communist China for a visit with his imprisoned brother, 69-year-old Bishop James E. Walsh. Mr. Walsh, a 70-year-old lawyer and former Maryland attorney general from Cumberland, cautiously answered the questions of newsmen shortly before boarding a plane for Los Angeles at Baltimore Friendship International Airport.

Sidesteps Questions

He discreetly turned aside queries dealing with the charges on which a Shanghai People's Court last March sentenced the bishop, a Catholic missionary, to twenty years in prison.

He also refused to comment on the State Department's denunciation of the charges—plotting espionage and counter-revolutionary activities against the Communist Government.

"It took me three months to get permission to make this trip," he explained, "and I certainly don't want to do or say anything which might jeopardize it now."

Wife Is With Him

Accompanied by his wife, Mr. Walsh planned to stay overnight in Los Angeles, taking off this morning for Honolulu. He was scheduled to leave there Wednesday for Hong Kong, where arrangements for his entry into Communist China were to be disclosed to him by representatives of the China Travel Service.

Mr. Walsh said he had last seen his brother in 1948 before the Bishop made his last trip to the Orient. The prelate first went to China in 1945 as head of a Maryknoll Fathers' mission.

Members of his family last heard from him 27 months ago and later learned that he had been placed under house arrest in Shanghai, Mr. Walsh said at the airport.

"About all we've known about him since then was what we read in the newspapers," he added.

Asks For Lawyers

"The chief help that I think anyone can give him would be to pray for him and the others," said Mr. Walsh. He referred to other Americans also imprisoned in China in similar cases.



JOYFUL BUT SAD—William C. Walsh, former judge and State attorney general, of Cumberland, at Friendship Airport yesterday before boarding plane to visit his imprisoned brother, Catholic Bishop James E. Walsh in Communist China. Mrs. Walsh, at right, will go as far as Hong Kong. Bishop Walsh was accused by Communists of "spying."

Mrs. Mary V. Downey, of New Britain, Conn., received permission to visit one of these, her son, John T. Downey, when Mr. Walsh was granted approval of his trip. Relatives of two others, Richard G. Fecteau and Hugh F. Redmond, visited them in January, 1958.

Mr. Walsh, walking briskly toward his four-engine jet American

airliner, said his two-week visit to China would begin August 1. Mrs. Walsh will remain in Hong Kong during that period. They expect to be back home late in August, Mr. Walsh said, "and hope we'll be able to take things a bit slower on the return trip."